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Marshland Rural District Council

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1954

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

District Council Offices
Alexandra Road,
Llisishech.

G. B. HOPKINS.
M.B. Ch.B., B.Pharm. D.P.H.

MARSHLAND RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:-

The Chairman (Mr. A. E. Terrington J.P.) The Vice-Chairman (Mr. F. W. Deptford) and the full Council.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:-

Medical Officer of Health -

G. B. HOPKINS, M.B. Ch.B. B.Pharm. D.P.H. *Commenced appointment 1st April 1955.*

also holds appointments of

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health.

Assistant School Medical Officer.

Medical Officer of Health Downham Market Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health Downham Rural District Council.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor -

J. T. DEWHURST, C.R.S.I. M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector and Deputy Surveyor -

B. V. BRAYBROOK, C.R.S.I.

Local Health Office,
DOWNHAM MARKET.

September 1955.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MARSHLAND RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have to submit for your consideration the Annual Report on the Sanitary Circumstances, Health and Vital Statistics of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1954.

A sharp outbreak of Sonne Dysentery commenced at Emneth Infants School in September, involving very extensive investigations over a prolonged period, and your Acting Medical Officer of Health during this period, Dr. J. Hamilton, wishes to extend to your Sanitary Inspectors his appreciation of their hard and valuable work in connection with this outbreak.

You will be interested to see that one in six of the cases of cancer were due to cancer of the bronchus, and amongst the males this ratio was one in five. This distressing condition should be regarded as largely preventable in a Rural District where atmospheric smoke pollution is at a very low level, and tobacco is accordingly even more incriminated than it would be in a smoke polluted area.

I remain

Your obedient servant,

G. B. HOPKINS.

Medical Officer of Health



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SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS - 1954

Area in acres.....	56,652
Population in 1931.....	15,350
Population in 1951 (Census).....	16,567
Population 1954 estimated mid year home population...	16,350
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1954.....	5,253
Rateable Value 1954.....	49,192
Product of a penny rate 1954.....	£197

LIVE BIRTHS 244

Birth rate : England & Administrative
Marshland Rural Wales County.

	M	F
Total	117	127
Legitimate	112	117
Illegitimate	5	10

15.4

15.2

15.12

STILL BIRTHS (Rate per 1,000 live and still births)

	M	F
Total	3	3
Legitimate	3	3
Illegitimate	0	0

Rate England & Administrative
Marshland Rural Wales. County.

24

24

24.16

DEATHS (all causes)

Total	M	F
162	97	65

Rate England & Administrative
Marshland Rural Wales. County

10.3

11.3

11.74

DEATHS (from Puerperal causes)

Puerperal and post abortive sepsis.....	NIL
Other Puerperal causes.....	NIL

VITAL STATISTICS Cont'd.

INFANT MORTALITY (Rate per 1,000 live births)

	M	F	Rate <u>Marshland Rural</u>	<u>England & Wales.</u>	<u>Adminis- trative County.</u>
Total	1	6			
Legitimate	1	5	28.7	25.5	20.89
Illegitimate	-	1			

DEATHS from -

Cancer (all ages).....	36
Measles (all ages).....	NIL
Whooping Cough.....	NIL
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).....	6. 0

SECTION A

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area in acres.....	56,562
Population (mid year estimate).....	16,350

DEATHS 162 deaths have been assigned to the district, an increase of twenty five over the figures for 1953. The standardised death rate of 10.3 is 91% of the figure for England and Wales. It should be noted that the National figures are weighted by the adverse mortality figures of the County Boroughs as compared with the Rural Districts and that the figure of 10.3 cannot be considered as especially favourable.

BIRTHS 244 live births have been assigned to the district, an increase of twelve on the 1953 figure.

MATERNAL MORTALITY There were no maternal deaths.

INFANT MORTALITY Seven infants died during the year, five from conditions unlikely to be influenced by treatment in the light of present knowledge.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT One burial was carried out by the Council under the provisions of the above Act.

SECTION B

1. GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES

Norfolk Executive Council, 54, Prince of Wales Road,
Norwich. Clerk R. J. Cobb Esq.,

2. EAST ANGLIAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD

Senior administrative Medical Officer - Dr. J.B.Ewen
M.D. D.P.H. Croft Holme, 117, Chesterton Road,
Cambridge.

(a) GENERAL

- (1) Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich.
- (11) West Norfolk & King's Lynn Hospital, King's Lynn
- (111) Jenny Lind Hospital, Norwich.
- (IV) St. James Hospital, King's Lynn (for chronic sick)
- (V) North Cambs Hospital, Wisbech.

(b) MATERNITY

- (1) Bowthorpe Maternity Hospital, Wisbech.
- (11) West Norfolk & King's Lynn Hospital (Maternity Unit)
- (111) Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge.

(c) INFECTIOUS

- (1) County Isolation Hospital, East Dereham.
- (11) Isolation Hospital, King's Lynn.
- (111) Peterborough Isolation Hospital.

(d) SANA' CRTA

- (1) Kelling Sanatorium, Holt.
- (11) Bramblewood Sanatorium, Holt.

(e) MENTAL

- (1) St. Andrews Hospital, Norwich.
- (11) Hellesdon Hospital, Norwich.
- (111) Heckingham Hospital, Norwich.
- (IV) Little Plumstead, Norwich.

SECTION B (Cont'd)

3. MATERNITY SERVICES

(a) District Nurses (showing Parishes and Villages served)

Nurse Stevens, Benns Lane, Terrington St. Clement
(Terrington St. Clement and Terrington St. John)

Nurse Ashworth, Mill Road, Walpole St. Peter.
(Walpole St. Andrew and Walpole St. Peter)

Nurse Cook, Old School House, Terrington St. John.
(Walpole St. Andrew and Walpole St. Peter)

Nurse Blishen, Council Houses, Nr. Church Farm,
Tilney All Saints. (Tilney All Saints, Tilney
St. Lawrence and Clenchwarton).

Nurses O'Leary and Nolan, 14, Lode Avenue, Upwell.
(Upwell, Outwell and Welney)

(b) MATERNITY

Beds in Regional Hospital Board Establishments.

(1) Stow Hall Maternity Home, Stow Bardolph.

(2) Bowthorpe Maternity Home, Wisbech.

4. AMBULANCE AND HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE

With effect from 1st April, 1954 the hospital car service for the Marshland Area is conducted by King's Lynn Ambulance Station and the Local Health Office, The Howdale, Downham Market.

The Marshland Area is jointly served by the Downham Market and King's Lynn Ambulances.

Infectious Disease Cases are conveyed by East Dereham, Wisbech and King's Lynn Ambulances.

5. RED CROSS AND ST. JOHN MEDICAL LOAN DEPOTS

- (a) Terrington St. John - Mrs. D. Greer.
- (b) Walpole St. Peter - Mrs. Woods.
- (c) Terrington St. Clement - Mrs. Mallett, Lovells Cottages.
- (d) Outwell - Mrs. Roper, Eason House, Outwell.
- (e) Three Holes - Mrs. Jerney, "Roysain", Three Holes.

6. COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES

(a) INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

- (1) Terrington St. Clement 3rd Tuesday - 2 to 4 p.m.

The Assistant County Medical Officer of Health attends at the above Session.

In addition, Village Infant Welfare Centres are held at the following villages - Emneth, Marshland St. James, Tilney St. Lawrence, Walpole St. Peter and West Walton. These centres are conducted by the Local Nurse/Midwives and Health Visitors, and are visited periodically by the Assistant County Medical Officer.

(b) SCHOOL MINOR AILMENT CLINICS

- (1) Terrington St. Clement Secondary School (every Tuesday during term)
- (11) Upwell Modern Secondary School 1st 3rd and 5th Thursdays (during term)

The School Nurse attends at the above sessions and the Assistant Medical Officer at one session per month.

(c) SCHOOL DENTAL CLINIC

Upwell Modern Secondary School (closed - no Dental Clinic available)

(d) HOME HELP SERVICE

The County Home Help Scheme is doing excellent work and Home Helps are at present available for the following parishes and villages - Terrington St. John Terrington St. Clement, Upwell, Outwell, Walpole St. Andrew and St. Peter, Tilney St. Lawrence, Clenchwarton Islington, Emneth and Marshland St. James.

7. VENereal DISEASE CLINIC

West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital.

MALES: Tuesdays and Fridays - 7 p.m.

FEMALES AND CHILDREN: Tuesdays and Wednesdays
at 3 p.m.

8. DISINFECTION AND DEINFESTATION.

(1) Disinfection of premises is carried out by
the Senior Sanitary Inspectors staff.

(11) Disinfestation of bedding, clothing etc.,
which cannot be carried out by this
Department, are sent to the East Dereham
Isolation Hospital.

9. LABORATORY SERVICE

(a) Public Health Laboratory, Isolation Hospital,
Bowthorpe Road, Norwich. Under the
direction of Dr. L. M. Dowsett.

(b) Public Analyst, W. Lincolne Sutton Esq.,
F.R.I.C. Redwell Street, Norwich.

SECTION C

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER
DISEASES

SMALL POX

NIL

SCARLET FEVER

There were 32 cases during the year of which 6 were
removed to Isolation Hospital.

DIPHTHERIA

There were no deaths from, or reported cases of
diphtheria. The table gives the yearly number of children
who either received full courses of primary immunisation,
or boosted doses to reactivate their primary immunity.

1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
183	202	236	211	163

DIPHTHERIA (Cont'd)

There has been a marked falling off in the response to immunisations since 1952.

PNEUMONIA

Seven deaths occurred but only two cases were notified.

ERYSIPELAS

One case was notified.

MEASLES

139 cases were notified. There were no deaths. It is not possible to assess accurately the acute and chronic illnesses which stem from this disease but it is considerable.

WHOOPING COUGH

18 cases were notified.

INFECTIVE JAUNDICE

There were three cases notified.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS

One case was notified.

TUBERCULOSIS

Thirteen cases of Pulmonary, and two of Non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified. There were no deaths. This yields a morbidity rate of 0.92 which is appreciably greater than the county rate of 0.56 though the district rate, being based upon such small numbers, is liable to much fluctuation year by year.

CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS

Number of Schools	Number of Days Closed	Reason for Closure
1	2	Sonne Dysentery
2	2	Influenza, Coughs Colds.
1	3	Influenza, Coughs Colds
1	4	Sonne Dysentery

Section D

CAUSES OF DEATH 1954

CAUSES OF DEATH	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	0	1
Tuberculosis, other forms	0	0	0
Syphilitic disease	1	0	1
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Menningococcal infection	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	4	2	6
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	2	6
Malignant Neoplasm, breast	0	5	5
Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	0	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	12	6	18
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	2	0	2
Diabetes	0	0	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	9	20
Coronary disease, angina	10	4	14
Hypertension with heart disease	4	1	5
Other heart disease	15	8	23
Other circulatory diseases	7	7	14
Influenza	0	0	0
Pneumonia	3	4	7
Bronchitis	0	1	1
Other diseases of the respiratory system	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0	0
Nephritis, Nephrosis	2	0	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	6	0	6
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
Congenital malformations	2	1	3
Other defined and ill defined diseases	6	12	18
Motor vehicle accidents	3	0	3
All other accidents	0	0	0
Suicide	3	0	3
Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
	97	65	162

DEATH RATE OF CHILDREN

Table No. 2.

CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR - 1954

Causes of Death	Age in Weeks					Total
	1	2	3	4	5-52	
Congenital malformations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diseases of early infancy						
Congenital abnormality	1				1	2
Premature birth	2					2
Injury at birth	1					1
Atelectasis	1					1
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diseases of the Respiratory System	-	-	-	-	2	2
Diseases of Nervous System	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diseases of Digestive System	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculous Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infectious Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Overlaying	-	-	-	-	-	-
Violence	-	-	-	-	-	-
All other causes	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	5	-	-	-	3	8

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1954

Table No. 3.

Notification in Age Groups.

DISEASES	AGES												Total
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 & over	
Scarlet Fever				4	4	19	5						32
Puerperal Pyrexia									2				2
Measles	4	6	14	11	12	88	4						139
Whooping Cough	2		1	2	1	11	1						18
Erysipelas										1			1
Pneumonia												2	2
Infective Jaundice						1				2			3
Acute Poliomyelitis										1			1
Typhoid	1												1
Opthalmia Neonatorum													NIL
Dysentery	1	1		3	2	6	2	1	2				18
Menningococcal Infection													NIL
TOTALS	8	7	15	20	19	125	12	1	4	4	-	2	217

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES 1954

Table No. 4.
(Other than Tuberculosis)

DISEASES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	T
Scarlet Fever	3	5	7	1	4	2	5	1	1	-	4	-	32
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Measles	-	-	-	1	-	3	5	5	2	10	46	67	139
Whooping Cough	6	-	1	5	-	3	1	-	-	1	1	-	18
Erysipelas	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Infective Jaundice	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Acute Polio- myelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Opthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	1	18
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	9	7	10	7	8	8	10	6	3	29	52	68	217

NEW CASES OF AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS 1954

AGE IN YEARS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respir.	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1	-	-	-	-				
5	-	1	-	1				
15	2	-	-	-				
25	3	1	1	-				
35	3	2	-	-				
45	-	-	-	-				
55	-	-	-	-				
65	-	-	-	-				
65 & over	1	-	-	-				
Total	9	4	1	1				

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1954. The report has been somewhat delayed in order to be published in conjunction with the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

WATER SUPPLY

The survey commenced in 1953 was continued during the year to provide a comprehensive scheme for piped water supplies to the more isolated areas. Whilst the prepared scheme will show considerable lengths of main with few services it must be stressed that a supply to these premises is vital not only from the Public Health aspect but also for the benefit of agriculture as well. Should the prepared scheme be carried out in its entirety there will still be many isolated dwellings dependent on rain water collected from roofs.

The whole of the piped supplies are under the control of the Wisbech Water Board and the Board is responsible for the Chemical and Bacteriological Analyses of the water and for maintaining purity and sufficiency.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The cesspool and privy vault emptying service continues to operate very satisfactorily. The table below shows an increased number of cesspools emptied from all previous years and a slight decrease in the number of privy vaults. The conversion of pail closets and vaults continues at a fairly satisfactory rate. Where housing density is great, difficulty is bound to be experienced when sub soil water level is high, to prevent cesspools filling in a matter of days after emptying.

The Contract commenced in July 1953 for the conversion of 62 pail closets to water closets in Council Houses proceeded very slowly. This was partly due to labour difficulties and also to a wet season.

The wet season also prevented the sewage disposal plants at Clenchwarton and Walpole Highway from being emptied in the latter period of the year. The roadways to these plants cannot be used by the vehicle in bad weather, and it may be necessary in future to ask the Council to consider hardening these roadways for this purpose.

Year	Cesspools	Privy Vaults	Sewage Disposal Plants
1951	526	465	19
1952	481	459	51
1953	685	394	54
1954	739	377	49

RIVER POLLUTION PREVENTION ACTS

The whole of the district continued to be covered and controlled by the two River Boards of the Nene and Ouse.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

No infestation was notified during the year.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Three new licences were issued under the Public Health Acts for moveable dwellings. In all cases where applied for the existing licences were extended for a further period of twelve months. Inspections were made of the dwellings licenced and all were found to be in a clean, tidy and satisfactory state.

FRUIT PICKERS BUNKS

Frequent inspections were made of seasonal workers bunks and informal requests for improvements to two of these sites were carried out satisfactorily by the owners. A satisfactory state was maintained throughout the season.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT

The details of the years work by the Rodent Operator are given below. Infestations were in no cases exceptionally heavy.

Reports of Infestations by Property Owners.	Visits Made	General Surveys	Council Property Visits	Refuse Tips Visits
40	146	995	78	55

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Refuse Collection Service by direct labour continued satisfactorily during the year. Minor labour difficulties were experienced especially at holiday periods but the employment of an additional loader-driver solved these difficulties. Tipping facilities still present a difficult problem in the area, and not until adequate tips exist can the service be extended. It was gratifying to note that the public are co-operating very well and are providing and maintaining the standard sanitary bin for storage until collection.

Road cleansing was carried out by the Norfolk County Council who are the Highway Authority.

VERMINOUS PERSONS AND PREMISES

No action was necessary under Section 85 of the Public Health Act 1936 for the removal of verminous persons.

Four dwellings were reported as being infested with vermin and were disinfested by the staff of the Department. One of the premises at Walsoken was very heavily infested.

HOUSING

New Houses

During 1954 two two-bedroomed bungalows were completed and occupied at Walpole Cross Keys.

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

6 Licences were issued for new bungalows and houses under the Licensing Regulations.

These Regulations were withdrawn during the year and building was freed from control.

48 houses were built by private enterprise during the year.

REQUISITIONED PROPERTIES

The last four dwellings requisitioned during the National Emergency were released during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Sampling

All sampling is carried out by the County Health Department.

Food Premises and Handlers

The bakehouses registered in the district were inspected at regular intervals. In one case informal action for improved cleanliness was necessary.

During the outbreak of Dysentery at Emneth it was found necessary to prevent five persons from handling food and drink.

Meat and Food Inspection.

Private slaughterhouses were licensed under the Food and Drugs Act 1938 as follows:-

Tilney All Saints	-	1
Walpole St. Andrew	-	1
Walpole St. Peter	-	1
Terrington St. John	-	2
Outwell	-	1
Upwell	-	4

Regular inspections of carcase meat has been maintained with great difficulty. This is due to the markets at Wisbech and King's Lynn being held on Mondays and Tuesdays resulting in similar slaughtering times for all slaughterhouses. However, everything possible has been done to ensure cleanliness and sound meat being offered for sale and diseased meat has been of a very low percentage of animals killed.

The total number of animals inspected from July to the end of the year was as follows:-

Beast 92	Pigs 362	Sheep 68
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Carcase meat condemned as unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered was as follows:-

Pork 752 lbs.	Pork Offal 16 lbs.
Beef 28 lbs.	Beef Offal 156 lbs.
Mutton Nil.	

72 investigations were carried out into cases of alleged unsound food. The following were surrendered voluntarily and condemned and destroyed:-

Processed Milk	163 lbs
Processed Fruit	6 lbs
Processed Meats	27 lbs
Cheese	20 lbs

41 Items of various foods and spices were removed from the Nursery School at Emneth during the dysentery outbreak and all destroyed on the instructions of the Medical Officer of Health as a precautionary measure.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Inspections made.....	53
Disinfections.....	33

582 visits were made during the dysentery outbreak at Emneth, Upwell and Outwell and 315 faecal samples were collected from individuals and despatched to the Public Health Laboratory at Norwich for Bacteriological examination.

NUISANCES

Inspections made.....	124
Notices served (Informal).....	23
Abatements.....	23

NEW BUILDINGS

Inspections made.....	256
New dwellings completed.....	48

SCHOOLS

Inspections made.....	24
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KNACKERS YARDS

Licences granted.....	1
Inspections made.....	2

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (Factories Act 1937)

Inspections made.....	40
Number of written informal notices..	2
Prosecutions.....	NIL

PETROLEUM LICENCES

Inspections made.....	8
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HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1954

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR

1. (a) Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health and Housing Acts 1936)..... 84
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.152
2. (a) Number of dwellings found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health to be unfit for human habitation..... 18
- (b) Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably ~~fit~~ for human habitation..... 71

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers.....28

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

- (a) Proceedings under appropriate sections of the Housing Act, 1936:-
 - (1) Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.....NIL
 - (2) Number of dwellings which were rendered fit after service of formal notice.....NIL
 - (a) by owners.....NIL
 - (b) by Local Authority in default of owners.....NIL
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.
 - (1) Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.....NIL

- (2) Number of dwellings in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice.....NIL
- (a) by owners.....NIL
- (b) by Local Authority in default of owners NIL
- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 25 of the Housing Act, 1936:
- (1) Number of Dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..... 1
- (2) Number of dwellings in respect of which Closing Orders were made or not subsequently re-let by an undertaking made by the Owners..... 4

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

J. T. DEWHURST.

Senior Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor.

